

Latino Civic Association of Tompkins County

2018 Annual Report

The LCA would like to thank all members of the community who worked to organize and staff, or participated in our events and who donated or otherwise supported the causes we support. We particularly want to thank:

Krystall Acevedo
Jose Buenaventura González Gutiérrez
Denise Karamadian
Colleen Kattau
Lenore McGarry
Sally Ramirez
Abel Rosa
Víctor Rosa
Josie Vélez

A. Civic activities

1. Upstate Latino Summit
 - a. 2018: Member of organizing committee. Co-organized, with Centro Civico of Amsterdam, three panels on education (Rochester, October 27)
2. Voter registration drives at Agava (April) and during LCA picnic (August)
3. Throughout the year, used LCA page in CNY Latino newspaper, FB page and listserv to promote vote.
4. Joined Community Leaders of Color
5. Participated in Amnesty International commemoration of 70th anniversary of Universal Declaration of Human Rights

B. Immigration

1. Worked with the Cornell Law School to assist in securing the release of a detained Guatemalan Mayan youth from a immigration detention facility in South Texas. The role of the LCA has been primarily
 - a. to find a family that will host this young person if the immigration court allows it
 - b. to find volunteers to help the minor and the host family continue with the immigration procedure and
 - c. to identify K'iche Mayan-English translators to assist the Law School lawyers and students in communicating with the minor and the family in Guatemala.
 - d. El Coquí Siempre Canta raised funds for this effort.
2. Co-organized with Finger Lakes Community Health and Voces the 7th annual Mexican Consulado Móvil in Sodus
 - a. Participant agencies: NYS Dept of Labor, Legal Aid Society of Rochester, Workers Justice Center and Workers Center of Central NY.

- b. Services offered to immigrants include
 - i. Mexican passport, consular ID and birth certificates to establish dual nationality of children born in the US. These documents are critical to keep families together if family is deported or decides to return to Mexico
 - ii. Medical consultations, blood pressure checks, HIV, diabetes screenings
 - iii. Intake interviews for immigration legal services,
 - iv. Labor and occupational health and safety consultations/complaints with representatives of the NYS Labor Department
- c. 180 - 200 migrants served per year.

C. Response to Hurricane María in Puerto Rico

1. In conjunction with El Coquí Siempre Canta (Sally Ramírez, Denise Karamadian and Colleen Kattau), continued the work started in 2017 to raise funds and donations for Puerto Rico.
 - a. Concert held on November 7, 2018 with the participation of musicians and artists Juliette Corazon, Jorge Cuevas, Rich DePaolo, Carlos Gutierrez , Denice Karamadian, Colleen Kattau, Abbe Lyons , Molly MacMillan, Mijail Martinez, Eliud and Meredith Nieves , Sally Ramirez, Doug Robinson, James Warren as well as Eva López and Patricia Fernández de Castro.
2. Funds raised were sent to Casa Pueblo.

D. Cultural

1. With funding from the Community Arts Partnership, and in collaboration with Cornell University and Ithaca College, Cultura! organized a very successful series of events that attracted a total of 589 visitors/participants:
 - a. Photo Poesia Workshop for children (Southside Community Center and Ithaca Community Gardens, April-May)
 - b. First Friday Gallery Night (CommonSpot Gallery, May)
 - c. Cinco de Mayo event @ Streets Alive (GIAC, April)
 - d. Cine con Cultura (8 films, one with discussion, Cinemapolis, Cornell Cinema and Ithaca College, September-October)
 - e. Aguakinesis: First Friday Gallery (CSMA, October)

E. Education

1. Awarded two Cecilia Montaner Vargas scholarships to HS seniors graduating from Tompkins County high schools. The students are currently attending Ithaca College and the University at Buffalo.

F. Assistance to Vulnerable Population

1. As every year, we lent assistance to a small number of members of the Latino community who are in need. In 2018 we helped a recently arrived family from Puerto Rico with transportation, guidance and interpretation for appointments with doctors and social services.

F. Community Building

1. We hosted a community picnic August 25 at Stewart Park and an end of the year celebration December 15 at the Hotel Ithaca. We tried a new location and a new and earlier time (6:30 pm-11:30 pm), which appear to have been popular with the community, as it was a very successful event, with about 180 persons attending.

G. Finances

1. Fundraising
 - a. El Coquí Siempre Canta concert raised \$2,681
 - b. Holiday Party raised \$2,296
2. Donations
 - a. AFCU non-profit support program \$228.60.
 - b. Religious Society of Friends \$100
3. Requested and were awarded \$2,000 from the Community Celebrations grant for Latino Heritage Month celebrations
4. Embezzlement
 - a. Of the total embezzled (\$6,425.75), we have been restituted \$1,558.09. The amount remaining to be restituted is \$4,867.66.
 - b. A letter was sent to the Honorable John Rowley of the Tompkins County Court, with copy to the Probation Director of the Tompkins County Department of Probation and Community Justice and to the District Attorney expressing our concern regarding the rate at which the restitution is taking place relative to the amount of time given to Mr. Micah Martorell by the Judge to fully retribute us. The Probation Director replied to our letter with an email on October 29.